

REMARKS

In the present Amendment, claims 3 and 9 have been rewritten in independent form.

Claims 6 and 12 have been amended to depend from claims 3 and 9, respectively.

Claims 1, 2, 7 and 8 have been canceled.

No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully submit that entry of the Amendment after final is proper, because this Amendment merely places the objected-to claims in condition for allowance, amends two rejected claims to depend from allowable claims, and cancels other rejected claims. Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 3-6 and 9-14 will be all the claims pending in the application.

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 4, 5, 10, 11, 13 and 14 are allowed.

I. Response to Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In Paragraph No. 3 of the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 6-8 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Yamashita et al (U.S. Pat. No. 5,189,405).

Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims are novel over Yamashita et al. As described above, claims 6 and 12 have been amended to depend from claims 3 and 9, respectively, which are not included in the rejection. Claims 1, 2, 7 and 8 have been canceled. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

II. Response to Claim Objection

Claims 3 and 9 are objected to as being dependent from rejected base claims.

In response, Applicants have rewritten claims 3 and 9 in independent form. Accordingly, the objection should be withdrawn.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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